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calcareous marl. This applies especially to the portions projecting through the alluvium in the ridges, where they are granular and friable. Fragments of fossil shell (*volutæ*), with their casts, I dug up on the ridge at "Young Girl." Their analogues are to be found in existing species in the neighbouring sea, thus proving how very recent the formation is. To me it seems even posterior to the *pleistocene* of the tertiary.

*Belize, 30th June, 1867.*

The PRESIDENT said that some of the observations contained in this account of the basin of the river Belize were of geological interest, as they related to the amount of mud and clay brought down by the river, and the gradual elevation of the coast. The statistics of the volume of water which the author had given were also worthy of notice. Respecting the river Belize, Admiral Collinson had informed him that Lieutenant Cooper Abbs, R.N., of the *Doris* frigate, had recently explored a great part of the district, and had sent home a report of his investigations with a detailed map. He was happy to announce that the valuable geographical observations contained in this report were being extracted by Admiral Collinson, and that a memoir would shortly be laid before the Society.

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*Fifth Meeting, January 27th, 1868.*

ADMIRAL SIR GEORGE BACK, D.C.L., F.R.S., VICE-PRESIDENT, in the Chair.

ELECTIONS.—*Joseph Anderson, Esq.; John Anderson, Esq.; G. F. Angas, Esq.; Capt. H. Barber; W. E. Blair, Esq.; Richard Davis, Esq.; Capt. F. J. A. Dunn; C. F. Ellis, Esq., Lieut. R.A.; William Falconer, Esq.; A. Fyfe, Esq., M.D.; A. Gilliat, Esq.; J. Percival Hunt, Esq., M.D.; Richard Jamieson, Esq.; A. Laybourne, Esq.; Henry Murray, Esq.; F. McClean, Esq.; B. Newbatt, Esq., M.A., &c.; D. Phillips, Esq.; Trevor Plowden, Esq.; Charles S. Price, Esq.; H. C. Rass-Johnson, Esq.; Capt. G. E. Shelley; Alexander W. T. G. Thorold, Esq.; W. Walkinshaw, Esq.; F. M. Williams, Esq., M.P.*

ACCESSIONS TO THE LIBRARY from JANUARY 13TH to 27TH 1868:—  
 'The Treasury of Geography: Physical, Historical, Descriptive, and Political,' &c., by W. Hughes, F.R.G.S., 1867. 'The Geography of British History; a Geographical description of the British Islands,' &c., by W. Hughes, 1866. 'A Manual of Geography, Physical, Industrial, and Political,' by W. Hughes, F.R.G.S., 1867. The latest editions of W. Hughes' Geographical Works, presented by the Author. 'The Chinese Miscellany, designed to illustrate the Government Philosophy, &c., of China,' Shanghai, 1849.

'Origin of the Chinese,' Chalmers, 1867. 'Journal of the North China branch of the R.A.S.' 'The Chinese Repository,' in 19 vols. Vol. i. wanting; vol. ii. incomplete, wanting 2, 3, 4; vol. iii., parts 5, 6, and 8; vol. iv. parts 3, 4, 5, 6; vol. v. 6 and 7 wanted; vol. viii. complete; vol. ix. 1, 2, 4; vol. x. 2 and 8; vol. xi. wanting; vol. xii. part 1; vol. xiii. part 10; vol. xiv. 1 to 9; vol. xv. parts 2, 9, 10; vol. xvi. perfect; vol. xvii. 4, 6, 7, 8; vol. xix. 1, 3, 4, 8; vol. xx. wanting part 4. 'Notes for Tourists in the Northern part of China,' Hongkong, 1866. All the above presented by Mr. Trübner. 'Journey of the Shanghai Literary and Scientific Society,' 1858. An English edition of Du Halde's 'Empire of China, 1741.' Two vols. fol., wanting the maps. Purchased. 'The World Surveyed; or, the Famous Voyages and Travailes of Vincent le Blanc of Marseilles,' &c., 1660. Purchased. 'Inventaire et Classement raisonné des Monuments de la Géographie publiés par M. Jomard de 1842 à 1862.' Communication de M. d'Avezac. 'The Imperial Gazetteer and Atlas of England and Wales.' Presented by A. Fullarton & Co.

ACCESSIONS TO THE MAP-ROOM SINCE THE LAST MEETING, JAN. 13TH, 1868.—Map of London showing proposed Railways and Improvements for the year 1868, by E. Stanford. Presented by the Author. French Charts (302 in number). Presented by the Dépôt de la Marine. Admiralty Chart of Santorin Island. Presented by the Hydrographic Office. Three Tracings and Three Views of Herald Island, Arctic Regions, by Capt. H. Kellett. Presented by Admiral Collinson. Chart of the Sandwich Islands, by the United States' Exploring Expedition, 1844. Presented by A. Waddington, Esq. Map of the City of Victoria, Vancouver Island, by A. Waddington, Esq. Presented by the Author. Plan of the City of Antananarivo, Madagascar, by J. Sibree, Esq. Presented by the Author. Admiralty Charts (19 in number) up to date of publication. The Hydrographic Office.

The CHAIRMAN said, before entering on the subject of the evening, he had much regret in informing the meeting that Sir Roderick Murchison, their excellent President, was confined at home by, he trusted, only a temporary illness. Much might they regret his absence on the present important occasion, from his knowledge and experience, and the great interest he had ever taken in African discovery. To his instinctive sagacity the English public are indebted for the detection of the falsehood of Moosa and the Johanna men, while his great affection for Dr. Livingstone induced him to request the Council of the Geographical Society to press upon Government the desirableness of fitting out an expedition to set all doubts at rest. The proposition of the Council, as we all know, was nobly responded to, and the expedition has now returned completely successful. He felt it necessary to say a few words in commendation of the honesty, resolution, and ability, of Mr. Young, the leader of the search-

party. Having been a member of the committee for organising the expedition, he had an opportunity of witnessing and approving the choice of Mr. Young. Mr. Young, who knew the Johanna men well, was convinced of the untruth of their story, and with characteristic intrepidity he said he would go and detect the falsehood. He was questioned on various points by the Committee, with respect to his knowledge of the route to be taken, and to none did he answer with the slightest hesitation. He calculated his daily journeys as to time and distance, from the mouth of the Zambesi to Lake Nyassa; and by the quickness of his movements he had performed the journey within the time specified. Mr. Young arrived at the mouth of the Zambesi on the 27th of July. No sooner had he entered the Zambesi than he heard that the Landeen Caffres had destroyed the whole of the Portuguese establishments on the southern shores of the river, from Senna to Tette. On arriving at Senna he also learned that the Mazite Zulus had made a predator yexcursion from the north-west of the Nyassa Lake, round its northern extremity, due south or nearly so, to the very banks of the Shiré; thus threatening to cut off his communication with the Makololo at the foot of the rapids. It required no small courage and tact to persevere in the face of such dangers; but he pushed on, arrived successfully at the foot of the rapids, and, with the assistance of some men, it took him only four days to surmount the rapids and gain the southern part of the lake. Pushing on from thence against a gale of wind, in which the steel boat was nearly swamped, he ultimately arrived at a bay where he had the happiness to gain information of Livingstone, not only from negroes who had seen him, but from the Arab merchants, who informed him that Livingstone proceeded to the south end of the lake, had there crossed over, and was going forwards on his journey. Much further information was obtained at Marenga on the south-western side of the lake. This information was so convincing, that Mr. Young considered the object of his journey was in some measure answered. From the chief Marenga he learned that he had sent fifty to eighty men with Livingstone to carry on his goods towards Tanganyika; and he told him that if any accident had happened to Livingstone within a month's journey he should have heard of it. Mr. Young returned to the mouth of the Zambesi, and arrived there on the 11th of November.

The SECRETARY then read the following letter from Sir Roderick Murchison:—

“MY DEAR SIR GEORGE,

“Alas! the day when I most wished to preside over the Geographers, and when I hoped they would have given me their hearty thanks for the part I have taken in organising the Livingstone Search-Expedition, must now pass away without my daring to appear before them, on account of a rheumatic and febrile attack which compels me to stay at home.

“The document which I drew up, approving in unqualified terms of the conduct of Mr. Young, and which was unanimously approved by the Council, will be read to the meeting, and will prove to the whole assembly how much we value the services of that excellent man.

“I ask you to take the Chair for me at the Evening Meeting, and to state that inexorable fate prevents me, to my great vexation, from attending.

“You who know as well as any member of the Council how I have strenuously pulled the leading oar in bringing about this Boat-search Expedition, how I sought out Mr. Young, and how I prevailed upon the Secretary for Foreign Affairs and the Board of Admiralty to approve the design, can well understand the glow of honest satisfaction I felt when I heard of its complete success.

“Again you also can testify to the firmness with which from the first day of

the reports of the murder of my dear friend Livingstone I resisted the almost general belief; for without that resistance no Government and no Board of Admiralty would have countenanced an expenditure of money, even in search of so great a traveller and so good a man as Livingstone.

"In taking this line and in pursuing it with ardour I was well aware I undertook a heavy responsibility; but as my distinguished friend, Captain Richards, R.N., the Hydrographer, embraced the cause with equal zeal, and the Lords of the Admiralty most generously supported it, nothing remained but to pray for a successful issue, and have full confidence in Mr. Young. Our project, thanks to that excellent seaman and his companions, has been entirely successful.

"But often has my energy almost broken down when I reflected on the various difficulties to be overcome! For I well knew how many casualties might occur to prevent the expedition ever reaching the spot where, as it is now proved, the Johanna men deserted him.

"My friends of the Geographical Society will recollect that from the first I expressed my belief that the Johanna men had *deserted* Livingstone, and had concocted a false and wholly incredible account of his death.\* I subsequently † gave as an hypothesis of their reason for deserting that they were coast-men, and acquainted only with the Zambesi and its tributaries, and that when their chief decided on plunging into the heart of Africa, they fled from him; and, indeed, they assigned as their motive to the native chiefs, to whom they told the truth, that it was fear which prevailed over them. Had they only re-told this story to the Consul at Zanzibar, what sufferings of the friends of Livingstone would they not have averted, instead of bringing on themselves the execrations of everyone! I hope some measures will be taken to make these wretches feel that, in reporting to British authorities, they must speak the truth.

"To put together a boat constructed in sections, to find a negro crew for the navigation of the Zambesi, to take the boat to pieces, and have it carried up 36 miles along the sides of the Cataracts to the River Shiré; then, after navigating the waters until the fate of Livingstone was clearly ascertained, to convey her back to the Zambesi, and finally bring her and the party safe back to England without the loss of a single man; this, indeed, is a real triumph.

"Now, indeed, we have only to rejoice, and, in the fullest confidence that the white man seen on the west shore of the Lake Tanganyika was Livingstone, I look with the deepest interest to the arrival on the east coast of the Arab to whom Livingstone entrusted letters from the Consulate at Zanzibar. When these letters arrive we shall know whether the great traveller has followed some large river to the west coast, or has crossed eastwards to Zanzibar; or whether, indeed, he may not have it in view to work northwards into the vast tributaries of the Nile.

"In regard to these three hypotheses I may add that Dr. Kirk at Zanzibar, in a letter dated 30th November, which I have not communicated to the Society, states that, though anxious to come home himself, he says, 'But I will not stir until I see our dear friend safe out of Africa.' Hence I infer that Dr. Kirk thinks that, having once determined the problem of the waterflow of Lake Tanganyika, Livingstone will cross over to the east coast.

"It is a source of deep vexation to me not to be present on this occasion, when I should have had it in my power to express personally the great obligation we owe to the Board of Admiralty; and I am sure that the Society will unanimously return thanks to their Lordships for their truly liberal and judicious support of the expedition as recommended by our Council."

\* See 'Proceedings,' March 11th, 1867.

† 'Proceedings,' vol. xii. p. 23.